Contact

Magazine for and about members of the 349th Air Mobil ity Wing Travis Air Force Base, Cal ifornia

Vol . 18, No. 7 Jul y 2000









Reservist helps train active duty

Commander's corner

by Col. James T. Rubeor 349th AMW Commander

I attended the C flight UTA in June and very much enjoyed meeting all the great people! Hopefully I'll be able to get around to meet more of you on the A and B flight UTA's. Here's what I've discovered so far in my short tenure as the new commander – this is a great unit that knows its business and accomplishes it with speed and precision. That makes my job easy! Accordingly, I have no big plans for big changes and will work with unit leadership to continue to improve our processes.

Before I go further, I must take a moment to acknowledge the tragic loss of one of our commanders. **Maj. Richard** "Gale" Weller, 55th Aerial Port Squadron Commander died unexpectedly on June 15. He had just recently retired from the California Highway Patrol and I'm sure he and his wife Gail were looking forward to their golden years. Thanks to everyone who participated in the memorial ceremony, particularly **Lt. Col. Truman L. Lum**, 349th Air Mobility Wing Inspector General, who was commander of troops for a combined military/CHP formation. The family was very grateful and it was a fitting tribute to a man who gave so much to his community and his country.

One of the issues that came up during the A flight UTA is the commuting distance. Our goal here at the 349th AMW is to establish a commuting distance of no more than 50 miles or a one hour commute, whichever is less. **CMSgt Anthony L. Maddux**, 349th AMW Command Chief, has commissioned a process action team chaired by **SMSgt Patricia R. McReynolds**, section chief, 349th AGS, to look into the issue. She and her team will brief the executive committee with their findings and recommendations and I'll keep you posted. The one thing I do ask for is patience. Decreasing the commute distance costs money and puts a bigger burden on billeting and it takes time to work either of those two issues. We must travel this road carefully to avoid a mess.

First impressions are important and one of my very first treats was to read the inspection report for the 82nd Aerial Port Squadron. Congratulations to **Lt. Col. Sandra L. Yope**, commander, 82nd APS, and her outstanding unit! They recently took over the Aerial Port at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, one of the busiest and toughest in the world, under the watchful eye of the Air Mobility Command Inspector General. The 82nd APS made it look easy! The inspection they passed with flying colors was part of the new inspection process, Expeditionary Operational Readiness Inspection.

It is a great concept and it was the brainchild of one of our very own here at Team Travis, **Brig. Gen. (Sel.) Thomas P. Kane**, Wing Commander, 60th AMW! I won't go into all of the details but I will say this – it puts more responsibility on individual commanders and unit leadership to make sure their units are combat ready. Ask your commander for details!

Along with EORI, another big change affecting our Air Force today is the transition to AEF, Air Expeditionary Force. I'll explain the concept more fully at my upcoming wing commanders call (more on those in a minute!) but the thing I want to

emphasize right now is this

– the AEF concept is here
and we have units
deploying right now in
support of it. The burden
has fallen most heavily on
our civil engineers and in
particular our fire fighters.

Let me take a moment to express my admiration and gratitude for the sacrifice's they have made. Through a lot of bureaucratic burgling, our fire fighters were tasked to deploy to Southwest Asia



in support of Operation Southern Watch not once but twice within the space of less than five months. Thanks to their personal commitment to the mission and with a lot of juggling of schedules and family hardships, they were able to support both taskings.

In particular I want to recognize the contributions of MSgt. Steven M. Wilson, MSgt. Mark Conners, and SRA Brian Hutchinson from the 349th Civil Engineering Squadron who went on both deployments! Now that's service before self!

Their efforts were important for two related reasons. First of all, the Air Force Reserve Command Commander, **Maj. Gen. James Sherrard**, has said that supporting AEF deployments is the command's number one priority. Because of this, our numbered Air Force commander, **Maj. Gen. Wallace Whaley**, has a very high interest in filling these deployments, bureaucratic bungling or not! The personal sacrifices of our fire fighters demonstrated our commitment to the mission and ensured that we, as a wing, won't get a lot of "help" from higher headquarters. My hats off to them and we all owe them a great big thanks! Their second deployment is in October and I'm looking forward to seeing them off.

I have a challenge for all of you that you will actually enjoy! As part of AMC's celebration of the Year of the Family, they have devised a game call ATWIND, Around the World in Ninety Days. Next time you come out to your unit, ask your commander, first sergeant or ART about it. There's an introductory game piece for everyone, you'll get another game piece for attending a commander's call at the July UTA and a third for updating your emergency data card (DD Form 93) at Customer Service before September. Enter all three pieces and you're already at Lajes Field in the Azores! ATWIND is a lot of fun with lots of prizes including computers, cruises, cars and cash! Have your family enter and play, you'll be glad you did!

I'm really excited to be your wing commander! Accordingly, I want to conduct some wing commander's call where I get a chance to recognize some of our outstanding people and speak directly to you. I'm working with **Command CMSgt Tony**Maddux on the details for the call but I will promise you this — they will be short and sweet!

One final thought. Be safe! See you at the UTA!

Contact

349th Air Mobil ity Wing Office of Public Affairs 520 Wal dron Street Travis AFB, CA 94535-2171 Vol . 18, No. 7 Jul y 2000

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ON THE COVER:

(Top left) MSgt. Don Pierotti, 349th CES, explains how the contamination control area process works. (Photo by AIC Jason Hartman, 60th CES) (Top right) A 60th AMW member removes his buddies overgarment while processing through the CCA. (Photo by SSgt Shayne Sewell) (Bottom left) Pierotti demonstrates the process of standing spread eagle in order to use a **Chemical Agent Monitor that would detect** contamination left on the body. (Photo by SSgt Shayne Sewell) A 60th CES member helps his buddy remove his equipment at Station 3 while processing through the contamination control area. (AIC Jason Hartman, 60th CES)

In Memorium

Maj. Richard "Gale" Weller, commander, 55th Aerial Port Squadron passed away June 15 in Redding, Calif.

Weller entered the Marine Corps in 1965 and was assigned to India Company, 3rd Battalion, 9th Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, Republic of Vietnam. He received two meritorious promotions to corporal and sergeant and was honorably discharged in 1967. He entered the Air Force Reserve in 1978 and served with the 82nd Aerial Port Squadron here. He earned his commission in 1983.

His positions include Officer in Charge of the Air Transportation
Operations Center, 45th APS and in
1988 he was appointed as the Assistant Chief of
Operations, 4th Air Force, McClellan Air Force Base,
Calif. In 1991, he assumed command of the 349th
Security Forces Squadron here and in 1997 he was

reassigned to 4th Air Force as the Transportation Officer in charge of operations and training. In 1998 he assumed command of the 55th APS. Weller recently

retired from the California Highway Patrol.

Weller's military decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with "V" device for Valor, Purple Heart Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Achievement Medal, Marine Corps Combat Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with three oak leaf clusters, National Defense Service Medal with one Bronze Star, Vietnam Service Medal with two campaign stars, Small

Arms Expert Marksman Ribbon with Bronze star, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Silver Star, Republic of Vietnam Humanitarian Ribbon with Palm device, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.



by Capt. Tania L. Daniels

ravis reservists from the 349th Air Mobility
Wing drew praise from their active-duty hosts while training in Germany last month.

Members of the 349th AMW's 82nd Aerial Port Squadron began arriving at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, at the end of May to participate for two weeks in Patriot Partner with the active force's 623rd Air Mobility Support Squadron, stationed at Ramstein. Patriot Partner is a program that allows reservists to take over most of the cargo and passenger terminal operations of an aerial port, as well as many of the supervisory roles.

"The 623rd AMSS provided guidance and support throughout the mission, which focused primarily on the swap out of Kosovo troops. Both squadrons maintained high motivation and spirit while integrating with each other. Teamwork and camaraderie directly contributed to the success of

Patriot Partner," said Maj. Tim O'Brien, operations officer, 82nd APS.

"Reservists basically come here for the training," said SMSgt.
Norzell Harris, aerial port operations superintendent for the 623rd AMSS.
"We provide the kinds of training they may not get back home. However, a lot of them have an abundance of experience already and after a couple of days on the job they learn how we do things and are able to run a shift."

The deployment also gave members of the Air Mobility
Command inspector general team a chance to evaluate the mission capability of the Reserve unit during an Expeditionary Operational Readiness Inspection. "The IG evaluated all areas of performance to gauge our squadron's ability to deploy and meet overall mission requirements," O'Brien pointed out. "With safety being an important issue, attention was focused on the squadron's ability to transition

smoothly into active duty roles."

With little fanfare, the two organizations combined resources and, from the IG's perspective, succeeded beyond their expectations.

The 82nd APS, while working 12-hour shifts, six days a week, earned a "green" rating during the EORI. A "green" rating means the unit is capable in all areas evaluated. TSgt. John Oyster and SSgt. Amy Hinde of the Air Terminal Operation Center also received special recognition as superior performers.

Close to 70 reservists from the 82nd APS deployed to Ramstein for Patriot Partner. They attributed their success to the "active-duty professionals at Ramstein" and "felt fortunate to have worked with the 623rd AMSS."

"The achievement of these operations," said MSgt. Donna Morris, 82nd APS, "presents a credible indicator of how well the Reserve forces contribute as Total Force Partners in our ever-changing military."

Record heat mimics future training scenario

by SSgt. Shayne Sewell

magine having to put on a chemical warfare ground crew ensemble and wear it for at least an hour in 108-degree heat!

That's what more than 200 60th Air Mobility Wing members had to do in order to receive hands-on training to remove their suits in a contamination control area scenario. The active duty members are preparing for the Inspector General Exercise in Savannah, Ga., in July. This is a new name for the familiar Operational Readiness Inspection.

The 60th Civil Engineering Squadron became short-handed and needed help conducting Ability to Survive and Operate Training. MSgt. Don Pierotti, Readiness Flight Assistant, 349th Civil Engineering Squadron, came to the rescue to help the 60th CES process the 200 members through a

Contamination Control Area and give chemical warfare refresher training during the week of Northern California's record heat, June 13-16. The units participating in the IGX include members from the 60th CES, 615th Air Mobility Operations Group, 60th Air Mobility Wing staff including public affairs, comptroller and safety, 60th Operations Group (intelligence and command post), and members from the 349th Logistics Group.

The CCA was built in about a week by Pierotti and 60th CES members, CMSgt. Dane Monell, MSgt. James Mcree, TSgt. Sean Vasvary, TSgt. Anthony Connelly, SSgt. Frank Brooks, and SSgt. Pete Cameron. "The purpose of building this is to give hands-on training. Most people have not had this training in their career, but it is a necessity at the IGX," said Pierotti. The CCA consists of 13 stations with trashcans, buckets and tubs to simulate where the chemical suit would be collected then cleaned or disposed of. Signs are posted at each station with directions about how to remove each piece of the ground crew ensemble. In addition, Pierotti and other 60th CES members gave directions on how to correctly remove a contaminated suit.

It normally takes about 30 minutes for one person to get from station 1 to station 13, but Pierotti made it possible to process eight people at a time, thus getting the people through faster. There are two sets of 13 stations each forming a separate line. Each line and each station is set up so that two people using the buddy system can process on one side of the station and another pair can process on the other side. In other words, there are two



A 60th CES member washes

his boots at Station four.

sets of 13 stations side by side. Processing through the CCA requires the buddy system because it takes two people to pull off each other's boots, chemical pants, chemical overgarments, and gloves. The mask is the last thing to be removed. "This training has been needed for a long time and needs to be on going," said MSgt. Cheryl Brown, Readiness Individual Mobilization Augmentee, 60th CES. Once members have processed through the CCA they proceed to the "haunted house" tents to receive the rest of their ATSO training. The green

the rest of their ATSO training. The green tents are dubbed "haunted house" simply as a nickname.

While the heat did mimic what conditions will be like in Georgia, it was certainly not planned to practice donning the full chemical suit in such weather. Due to the heat, members processing were allowed to wear shorts and T-shirts underneath their chemical suit and were also required to drink at least five bottles of water throughout the day to stay hydrated in the hot, green canvas tents.

The "haunted house" consists of four green general-purpose tents. The members spent about one and a half hours in each tent to receive readiness, exploded ordnance, M-16, and self-aid and buddy

care training. "ATSO was a tough haul. The active duty and reserves pulled together to make this training happen," said CMSgt. Dane Monell, Chief of Readiness, 60th CES.

A practice exercise was held at Beale AFB, Calif., in June to practice for the real inspection exercise in July.



Photo by TSgt Marvin Meel

Take cover...

Members from the 749th Aircraft Generation Squadron take cover during a simulated chemical attack, June 24. The squadron conducted a Combat Employment Readiness Exercise designed to improve the ability of its members to survive and function in a chemical environment.

Korean War: Air Force Reserve's first trial by fire

by Dr. Kenneth C. Kan Air Force Reserve Command

In light of the recent historic summit between the leaders of North and South Korea, it's worth noting that June 25 marks the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War, the newly established Air Force Reserve's first trial by fire.

In the early hours of June 25, 1950, communist forces from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea launched attacks across the 38th parallel, which divided the Korean peninsula.

The invaders quickly overwhelmed Republic of Korea military units, and South Korean leaders urgently requested American military assistance. The United States responded quickly, but did so as part of an overall United Nations-directed effort to defeat communist aggression.

Despite their willingness to help the South Koreans,
America's active-duty military forces at the time were undermanned and ill equipped. Accordingly, the services turned to their Reserve components to supply urgently needed personnel and equipment.

For its part, the Air Force authorized the voluntary and involuntary recall of individual reservists. During the course of the conflict, three Reserve flying wings and a detached squadron saw combat service. The 452nd Bombardment Wing, a B-26 unit from Long Beach Municipal Airport, Calif., and the 437th Troop Carrier Wing, a C-46 unit from O'Hare Field-Chicago

International Airport, Ill., began their active-duty service Aug. 10, 1950. Advance groups of both units arrived in the Korean theater of operations in October, followed the next month by the main parties.

The 452nd BW performed a variety of day and night combat missions, while its detached 731st Bombardment Squadron, Night Attack, concentrated exclusively on



night missions until their tours ended May 10, 1952, and June 25, 1951, respectively.

During the 437th TCW's activeduty tour, which ended June 10, 1952, the unit carried out airlift, patient evacuation, and paratroop and supply missions.

On April 1, 1951, the Air Force recalled the 403rd TCW, Medium, Portland Municipal Airport, Ore., to active duty. The 403rd arrived in Japan in April 1952 and inactivated Jan. 1, 1953. During its Korean War service, the wing used its C-119s to airlift and airdrop supplies, for airborne training support and to

transport ground units.

The Air Force also recalled Reserve flying units to active duty for service other than in the Korean War zone. For instance, the 375th TCW, Greenville AFB (later Donaldson AFB), S.C., equipped with C-82s, supported U.S. Army airborne training at Fort Benning, Ga. The 433rd TCW, based at Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany, flew C-119 missions during NATO operations.

The Air Force also used personnel from 15 flying wings to fill out under-strength active-duty wings. In all, 146,683 Air Force reservists performed active-duty service from 1950 until the signing of the armistice in 1953.

Air Force officials learned a variety of valuable lessons from their Korean War experience in utilizing reserve forces. As early as 1951, the Air Force began implementing a comprehensive long-range plan designed to improve and strengthen the reserve components.

During the mobilization process, numerous delays arose due to poor personnel records. To help solve this problem, the Air Force opened the Air Reserve Records Center in 1954 to consolidate personnel files. These and other problems notwithstanding, the Air Force Reserve performed well during the Korean War.

Over the course of the past 50 years, the Air Force Reserve has undergone many changes. However, their devotion to duty and service to country link the reservists of 1950 to the men and women of today's Air Force Reserve Command.

New commander

Lt. Col. Stephen P. Vancil - 70th Air Refueling Squadron

'TIGER TEAM' TAKES IN-DEPTH LOOK AT C-5 PROGRAM

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. -- Recent declines in mission capability rates of the C-5 Galaxy -- how many of the 126-aircraft fleet are available at any given time -- has prompted senior Air Force leadership to take a hard look at ways to improve the availability and sustainability of the Air Force's largest transport.

The Air Mobility Command and Air Force Materiel Command commanders have directed the formation of a Tiger Team to identify opportunities to improve the availability, reliability, and maintainability of the aircraft; all factors in the C-5's mission capability. Air Force officials are quick to point out policies and processes -- not people -- are what they are aiming to improve. "Let there be no question that this is about 'what' is wrong, and not about 'who' is wrong," said William Cromer, deputy director, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center C-5 System Program Office. "We have a critical mission weapon system that is extremely complex. The people are doing their very best. We need to make sure everything is optimized to help them."

Their approach will be to take a comprehensive, fresh look at governing policies, maintenance and repair procedures, and best practices by conducting field surveys at home stations and supporting depots. The team will identify problems, generate solutions, and make recommendations for long-term and short-term improvements, and also seek to develop performance measures that will support an integrated C-5 balanced scorecard.

Split into two groups that will deploy to a dozen bases in the U.S. during June and July, the team hopes to develop the most complete picture of the C-5 program ever with a focus on details in the areas of C-5 operations, maintenance, supply, sustainment, and logistics support.

The field operations sub-team, led by Col. Ken Higashihara, Headquarters AMC, will visit home stations and operating locations to validate each unit's compliance with current Air Force, major command, and other regulatory instructions. From both logistics and operational perspectives, the team will focus on the impact of compliance or non-compliance on mission capability, as well as any internal or external impediments caused by regulated processes or command-directed compliance.

Senior team members emphasize that the Tiger Team will focus on "as is" processes for improvement and to encourage "outside the box" thinking. "Everyone agrees that we need to make some changes now that can give us significant benefits in the short term. That's the purpose of the Tiger Team," said Cromer. "Then we must carry their lessons onward toward continuing improvements in C-5 maintainability, reliability, and availability. With major modernization and re-engining projects approaching in the next several years, what we implement now through this effort will help us move smoothly through those future phases without a dip in C-5 availability."

Military Equal Opportunity training changes

The Equal Opportunity Class 2000 will be taught on the first month of the quarter on A Flight; the second month of the quarter on B Flight; and the third month of the quarter on C Flight effective July 1.

The class will be relocated from Bldg. 381 to Bldg. 228 (349th AMW Headquarters) from 1230-1630 hours on Saturday of the UTA.

If you have not completed EO 2000, please do so as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please call the Military Equal Opportunity Office at (707) 424-1693.

MAJ. GEN. WHALEY LEAVES 4TH AIR FORCE FOR NEW POSITION

WASHINGTON - Two Air Force Reserve Command general officers will trade jobs this summer, according to an announcement by the Office of Air Force Reserve's directorate of personnel here June 9.

Maj. Gen. Wallace W. Whaley, 4th Air Force commander at March Air Reserve Base, Calif., and Brig. Gen. James P. Czekanski, director of operations, Head-quarters Air Force Reserve Command, Robins Air Force Base, Ga., will swap positions Aug. 7.

Whaley has commanded 4th Air Force since July 1993. Czekanski has been at Headquarters AFRC since May 1997, first as the inspector general and then as the director of operations starting in April 1998.

Both men have similar military experiences, including being commissioned through the Reserve Officer Training Corps in 1968. Whaley graduated from The Citadel, and Czekanski is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts. Czekanski began undergraduate pilot training at Williams AFB, Ariz., in July 1968. A month later, Whaley entered UPT at Laredo AFB, Texas. Other similarities are command of airlift groups and wings and numerous flying hours in C-5, C-130 and C-141 aircraft.

This is Czekanski first assignment as a numbered Air Force commander. Whaley briefly commanded 14th Air Force (forerunner of today's 22nd Air Force) at Dobbins ARB, Ga., in 1993 before assuming command of 4th Air Force.

Employer Day Dates:

Operations Group - July 22 (79th ARS, 301st AS) POC: Chief Master Sgt. Karen Redd (707) 424-7003

Logistics Group - Sept. 23 POC: Chief Master Sgt. Marcus Okuda (707) 424-3201 or (707) 424-5037



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Christine A. Taylor, 82nd APS Edward E. Yotter, 55th APS



Senior Master Sergeant

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Promotions Effective July 1

Technical Sergeant



Stephanie Agamedi, 349th CH John J. Alconera Jr., 82nd APS Raul A. Altares, 349th MAS Ramon C. Arguelles, 349th LSS Stewart Balderama, 349th CES Danny E. Bern, 349th CH Kevan B. Blanco, 349th OSF Paul S. Casadevall, 301st AS Jeffrey P. Densley, 349th CH Levi J. Deverney, 82nd APS John D. Evans III, 349th CRS Kenneth W. Flowers, 45th APS Molette Flowers, 55th APS Buford D. Hadley II, 55th APS Rosema Hermano, 349th AMW Carmen Hunt, 349th MSS Yolanda Hutzel, 82nd APS Christopher Jaramillo, 349th CH Marvin J. Jenkins, 55th APS David C. Jese, 45th APS Penelope V. Judge, 55th APS Charles A. Mahon, 349th LSS Regina Mcfaddenporter, 82nd APS Donna M. Milford, 301st AS Al A. Padilla Jr., 55th APS Sean L. Poynter, 82nd APS Mark D. Resendes, 349th CRS John K. Runyan, 45th APS Robert W. Schedler, 55th APS Ralph V. Simon, 312th AS Nicholas C. Suarez, 55th APS Gregory F. Tokarz, 749th AGS Charles C. Torio, 45th APS Shawn L. Wagner, 301st AS George Wakayama, 82nd APS Tina L. Warren, 82nd APS



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Senior Airman

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💋 Airman First Class

Jason A. Brown, 349th CES Terrill Currington, 349th MDS Travis A. Moilanen, 349th AGS Faye K. C. Scott, 349th CRS Brian D. Whitmer, 749th AGS

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Photo by SSgt Shayne Sewell

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